

Message Text

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C-MR FUERTH(SUBS)

OES-MR DEVINE(SUBS)

S/P-MR KALICKI(SUBS)

ACDA-MR WILLIAMSON(SUBS)

ERDA-MR BLAU(SUBS)

EA-MR BROWN(SUBS)

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R 201559Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO XAMEMBASSY LONDON 7382

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 232649

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 232649 VICE 223649)

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PARM, TEC., UK, TW

SUBJECT: UK NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN

1. ON AUGUST 27 A BRITISH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED
DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL THAT UK MINISTERS HAVE DECIDED THAT
IN FUTURE THEY DO NOT INTEND TO APPROVE ANY LICENSES FOR
NUCLEAREXPORTS TO TAIWAN. THIS POLICY WAS ADOPTED
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BECAUSE OF SUSPICION REGARDING TAIWAN'S NUCLEAR INTENTIONS

AD BECAUSE UK DOES NOT RECOGNIZE TAIWAN, THUS PREVENTING UK FROM ENTERING INTO SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS WITH ROC. UK WAS INVITING US COMMENTS PRIOR TO NOTIFYING OTHER SUPPLIERS AND SEEKING THEIR PURSUIT OF SIMILAR POLICIES.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 13 DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL REPLIED TO BRITISH, DRAWING ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS AND STRESSING SENSITIVITY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH DUTCH AND BELGIANS AS WELL AS EXCHANGES WITH FRENCH:

-- WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONSULTING US IN ADVANCE OF FURTHER APPROACHES TO OTHER SUPPLIERS ON THIS MATTER. CLOSE PATTERN OF US-UK CONSULTATIONS ON NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES IS HIGHLY BENEFICIAL AND WE HOPE WILL BE CONTINUED.

-- WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS ON

TAIWAN AND ARE DETERMINED TO PREVENT TAIWAN FROM ACQUIRING NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES OR A NATIONAL REPROCESSING CAPABILITY. WE HAVE RECENTLY REITERATED TO THE ROC IN THE STRONGEST TERMS OUR OPPOSITION TO THEIR ACQUISITION OF SUCH A CAPABILITY.

-- HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WHAT AMOUNTS TO A NUCLEAR EMBARGO VIS-A-VIS TAIWAN IS DESIRABLE, NOR THAT THE UK SHOULD SEEK OTHER SUPPLIERS' PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A POLICY, BECAUSE:

- THIS COULD ESTABLISH AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT WITHIN THE GROUP WHICH OTHERS MIGHT SEEK TO EXPLOIT FOR PURPOSES ESSENTIALLY UNCONNECTED WITH NON-PROLIFERATION;

- THE ROC HAS MADE A MAJOR COMMITMENT TO NUCLEAR POWER, FOR WHICH IT HAS A LEGITIMATE NEED;

- APPEARANCE OF EMBARGO COULD COMPLICATE U.S. EFFORTS TO DEAL QUIETLY WITH TAIWANESE IN HOPES OF DEVELOPING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION OF NUCLEAR ISSUES.

- INSTEAD, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE AIMED CONFIDENTIAL

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AT PREVENTING SENSITIVE TRANSFERS FROM TAKING PLACE, AND THESE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO BILATERAL EXCHANGES AMONG SUPPLIERS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BECOME SOURCES OF SENSITIVE EXPORTS TO TAIWAN. THIS EXCLUDES CONTACTS ON THIS MATTER WITH EAST BLOC COUNTRIES, FOR EXAMPLE.

IF ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT WHAT PLANS THE U.S. HAS IN MIND FOR CONSULTATIONS ON TAIWAN, OR WHAT STEPS THE U.S.

MAY HAVE ALREADY TAKEN:

-- BASED ON SOME INDICATIONS THAT TAIWAN MAY HAVE SOUGHT
TO ACQUIRE SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY AND/OR EQUIPMENT
SURREPTITIOUSLY FROM EUROPEAN SOURCES, WE HAVE MADE
APPROACHES TO THE DUTCH AND BELGIANS ENCOURAGING THEM TO
WATCH FOR SUCH ATTEMPTS, AND HAVE HAD EXCHANGES WITH THE
FRENCH ON THE SAME SUBJECT. ALL HAVE AGREED WITH US ON
THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE IN THIS REGARD.

ROBINSON

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